

Artists in National Parks

National Parks are indebted to the adventurous spirits and creative talents of many early day artists. Through their artwork, painters, writers, and photographers recorded and publicized the natural beauty of the American landscape. Over time they helped to shape conservation values and to promote the creation of many national parks.

Contemporary artists continue this tradition. Their works foster appreciation for the purpose, meaning and value of national parks today. Their artwork may also document changes in our parks that will inform the future. Currently there are over fifty national park areas with Artist-in-Residence Programs.



Painting by Jennifer Hunter – 1996 Artist-in-Residence

Rocky’s Artist-In-Residence Program

For nearly a hundred years, Rocky Mountain National Park has lured millions of visitors to experience its beauty and tranquility. Rocky will celebrate its 100th anniversary from September 4, 2014 through September 4, 2015. During this time, the park will be highlighting Rocky’s wilderness, wildlife and wonder. As part of the festivities, the park’s 2015 Artist-in-Residence Program will be honoring the past, celebrating the present and inspiring the future.

Rocky’s Artist-In-Residence Program is one of the longest running programs in the national park system. The program offers professional writers, composers, and visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline surrounded by the park’s inspiring landscape.

Public Presentations

Artists will present two 45-minute public programs during their residency. This interaction can be tailored to an individual’s medium, interest, and experience using only a few hours of one’s stay. Programs can be a demonstration, talk, or a performance. Artists must provide their own supplies for these presentations. Audio visual equipment and PowerPoint projectors are available. In addition, artists are requested to give a public presentation in their community about their residency experience.



Art work Donations

Participating artists are expected to donate to the park an original piece of artwork from, and representative, of their residency in Rocky Mountain National Park. The park is especially interested in artwork relevant to our 2015 centennial’s theme of wilderness, wildlife and wonder. Donated artwork must be received no later than one year after an artist’s residency. Artwork from visual artists should be framed with UV protective glass and prepared for hanging before donation.

Artists are also required to provide the copyright for this artwork to the National Park Service. The artist retains a royalty-free, non-exclusive use license under the copyright of the art.



The William Allen White Cabin

Selected artists stay in a historic cabin in Moraine Park for two-weeks between June and September. No stipend is provided. This cabin was the summer retreat of William Allen White from 1912 to 1943. White was a Pulitzer Prize winning writer, a nationally recognized journalist and the editor of the Emporia Gazette in Kansas. His spirit lives on with the contemporary artists who work in his cabin today.



The Selection Process

A jury of professional artists will choose two or three finalists and one alternate. Selection is based on artistic merit, the Statement of Purpose, and the relevancy of the artwork and the artist’s project proposal. 2015 residency projects should reflect the park’s centennial theme of wilderness, wildlife and wonder.



Painting by Mark McDermott – 2011 Artist-in-Residence

Intent of the Artist-In-Residence Program

Artwork completed under this program will characterize Rocky Mountain National Park for present and future generations, and offer park visitors an opportunity to see our heritage through the eyes, and ears of the selected artists.

The Artist-in-Residence Program also aspires to perpetuate the memory of William Allen White and preserve his historic cabin, built in 1887.



Painting by Steve Murillo – 2000 Artist-in-Residence



Rocky Mountain National Park



Painting by Laura Jacques – 2008 Artist-in-Residence

Artist-in-Residence Program 2015





2015 Artist-In-Residence Entry Form

Artistic Medium: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: day () _____

evening () _____

E-mail: _____

Application Enclosure Checklist

! DO NOT send paper copies of resume or Statement of Purpose. DO submit a CD containing a resume of professional experience and a Statement of Purpose for Residency, not to exceed one page in length in .doc or .doc format with:

- ✓ Specific focus of your residency project.
- ✓ Project's relevance to the park's centennial.
- ✓ How the residency will enhance your growth.
- ✓ Include this completed entry form.
- ✓ A non-refundable application fee of \$35.

Make checks payable to:

RMNA: Artist-in-Residence Program

- ✓ Samples of your Artistic Work (see below):

! Visual artists, except video photographers, writers, and multi-discipline artists may submit all materials on the same CD.

- ***Visual Artists (Photographers, Sculptors, Painters, etc.)*** 1 CD with 6 images in jpg or tif format. EACH PICTURE not to exceed 3 MB in size. More than 6 images or pictures exceeding 3 MB in size will result in disqualification. Video photographers send 6 copies of the same disc.
- ***Writers*** - 1 CD containing 6 pages of written examples
- ***Musicians/Composers*** - 6 copies - same music CD
- ***Performing Artists*** - 6 copies - same CD or DVD
- ***Multi-Discipline Artists*** - send sample combinations based on the above.

- ✓ Mail Application to:

Artist-In-Residence Program Coordinator

Rocky Mountain National Park

1000 Highway 36

Estes Park, CO 80517

Deadline postmark is November 15, 2014